

Routes: Who Is Cheaper to Rent a Car From?

Complete USA Car Rental Price Comparison Guide for 2026

Finding the cheapest car rental company in the United States is one of the biggest concerns for travelers +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), business professionals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), families +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and tourists +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Rental prices can vary significantly depending on the company +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), location +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), season +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), airport demand +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), insurance fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and hidden charges +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337

9478(US). Many people search online asking +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US),

“Who is cheaper to rent a car from?” because they want the best deal without sacrificing quality +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), customer service +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), or reliability +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

The truth is that no single rental company is always the cheapest in every city or during every season +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Some companies offer lower base rates but add expensive fees later +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Others may charge slightly more upfront but include benefits like unlimited mileage +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), roadside assistance +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), or flexible cancellation policies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Understanding how car rental pricing works can help travelers save hundreds of dollars on their trip +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

In the United States +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), popular rental companies include Enterprise Rent-A-Car +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Hertz +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Avis +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Budget

+1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Dollar Rent A Car +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1

855 337 9478(US), Thrifty Rent-A-Car +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Alamo +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), National Rent-A-Car +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and Sixt +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Each brand has different pricing structures and customer experiences +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Budget-conscious travelers often compare daily rates first +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337

9478(US), but the cheapest advertised rate is not always the lowest final bill +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Taxes +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), airport concession fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), underage driver fees +1

855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), security deposits +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), fuel policies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and insurance add-ons can dramatically increase the total cost +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

That is why smart renters compare the full reservation amount instead of focusing only on the base price +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

One of the cheapest rental companies in many US cities is Budget +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1

855 337 9478(US). As the name suggests +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Budget focuses heavily on affordable pricing +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Travelers frequently find economy cars at lower rates compared to premium rental agencies +1

855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Budget is especially popular for weekend trips +1

855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), airport rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337

9478(US), and one-way rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). However +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), additional fees can sometimes increase the total price if renters add optional services +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Dollar Rent A Routes and Thrifty are also known for offering lower daily rental rates +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). These companies often compete aggressively in airport locations and tourist destinations such as Las Vegas +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Orlando +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Miami +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Los Angeles +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and Phoenix +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Travelers searching for the absolute lowest upfront cost often compare these brands first +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). The trade-off is that wait times at pickup counters can occasionally be longer during busy travel seasons +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Enterprise is one of the most trusted rental brands in America +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855

337 9478(US). While Enterprise may not always offer the lowest base price +1 855 337

9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), many customers choose it because of its customer service

+1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), large vehicle selection +1 855 337 9478(US) or

+1 855 337 9478(US), and convenient neighborhood locations +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855

337 9478(US). Enterprise frequently provides better overall value +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), especially when customer support and flexible policies are important +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Hertz is another major player in the US rental market +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337

9478(US). Hertz sometimes charges slightly higher prices than discount rental companies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), but it offers premium service +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), fast pickup options +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and loyalty rewards +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Business travelers often choose Hertz because of convenience and vehicle quality +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). However +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), travelers searching strictly for the cheapest rate may find better deals elsewhere +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Avis is considered a mid-range to premium rental company +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). It is widely available at airports and city locations across the United States +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Avis frequently targets business travelers and loyalty program members +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). While Avis can occasionally provide competitive promotional deals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), it is generally not the cheapest option for economy rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Alamo is highly popular among vacation travelers and families +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). It often provides competitive pricing for airport rentals and includes flexible online check-in features +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Many tourists compare Alamo with Budget and Enterprise when searching for affordable family vacation transportation +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

National Routes Rental mainly targets frequent business travelers through its loyalty rewards program +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Although National may not be the cheapest for casual renters +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), members of its Emerald Club program often receive faster service and upgrade opportunities that can improve overall value +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Sixt has expanded rapidly across the United States in recent years +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). The company is known for stylish vehicles +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), luxury car options +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and attractive online discounts +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). In some cities +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Sixt offers surprisingly competitive rates compared to traditional American rental companies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Location plays a huge role in determining which rental company is cheapest +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Airport rentals usually cost more than neighborhood rentals because airports charge additional taxes and concession fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Renting a car from a downtown or suburban location can sometimes save travelers more than \$100 during a single trip +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Seasonal demand also affects pricing +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). During holidays +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), summer vacations +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), spring break +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and major events +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), rental prices increase sharply

+1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Florida +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Nevada +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), California +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and Hawaii are especially expensive during peak tourist seasons +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Booking early is one of the best ways to secure cheaper prices +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Travelers can often find lower rental rates by using comparison websites +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). These platforms compare prices from multiple companies at the same time +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), helping customers identify the best deal quickly +1 855

337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). However +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), travelers should always review the final payment page carefully because some third-party booking sites exclude mandatory taxes or fees from initial search results +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Membership discounts can also reduce rental costs +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Many travelers do not realize they may already qualify for discounts through organizations such as AAA +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), AARP +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Costco +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), airline loyalty programs +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), employer partnerships +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), or credit card benefits +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). These discounts can lower the daily rate or provide free upgrades and waived fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Credit cards can provide valuable rental car coverage as well +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Some premium credit cards include collision damage coverage when travelers pay for the rental using the card +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). This benefit may help renters avoid purchasing expensive collision insurance directly from the rental company +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Fuel policies are another major factor when comparing prices +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855

337 9478(US). Some companies require renters to return the car with a full tank +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), while others offer prepaid fuel options +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Returning the car without refueling often leads to expensive fuel charges +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Understanding the fuel agreement before driving away can help travelers avoid unexpected costs +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Young drivers under age 25 usually pay extra fees regardless of which rental company they choose +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). These underage driver fees vary by company and state +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Some companies charge more than \$25 per day for drivers between ages 21 and 24 +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Travelers under 25 should compare fees carefully because the cheapest company for older drivers may not be the cheapest for younger renters +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Long-term rentals sometimes provide better daily pricing than short-term rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Weekly and monthly rental rates can significantly reduce the average daily cost +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Travelers staying for extended vacations or temporary work assignments may save more by booking a longer rental period upfront +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Electric vehicle rentals are becoming more common across the United States +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Companies like Hertz and Sixt now offer Tesla and other EV options in many cities +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). While EV rentals may occasionally have higher daily rates +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), they can reduce fuel expenses during long trips +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Luxury rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), SUVs +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), pickup trucks +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and minivans cost

substantially more than economy cars +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Travelers focused on affordability should select compact or midsize vehicles whenever possible +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Economy cars generally provide the lowest rental rates and better fuel efficiency +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Many travelers wonder whether airport loyalty programs actually save money +1 855 337

9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). In some cases +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), joining a rental company's rewards program can unlock member-exclusive pricing and faster checkout services +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). These programs are usually free to join and may provide discounts immediately +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Flexibility with pickup and drop-off times can also reduce costs +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855

337 9478(US). Rental companies typically charge by the hour after the scheduled return time +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Returning a car even a few hours late can sometimes trigger an additional full-day charge +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Prepaying online can lower rental rates as well +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Many companies offer discounts for prepaid reservations compared to pay-at-counter pricing +1

855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). However +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), prepaid bookings may include stricter cancellation policies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Travel insurance packages sometimes overlap with rental company insurance +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Travelers should review existing coverage from personal auto insurance policies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), travel insurance plans +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and credit cards before purchasing duplicate coverage at the rental counter +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

In most cases +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Budget +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Dollar +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and Thrifty are among the cheapest rental companies in the United States for economy vehicles +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Enterprise offers strong value and customer service +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), while Hertz and Avis are often preferred for premium convenience and loyalty benefits +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). The cheapest option depends heavily on travel dates +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), location +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), vehicle type +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and extra fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Smart travelers compare multiple companies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), book early +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), avoid unnecessary add-ons +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and carefully review the total price before confirming a reservation +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). By following these strategies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), renters can significantly reduce travel costs and avoid surprise charges +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

FAQs

Which car rental company is usually the cheapest in the USA?

Budget +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), Dollar +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and Thrifty are often considered among the cheapest rental car companies in the United States +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Their economy vehicle rates are frequently lower than premium competitors +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), especially for airport and vacation rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Is Enterprise cheaper than Hertz?

Enterprise is sometimes cheaper than Hertz for standard rentals +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), especially at neighborhood locations +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Hertz may charge higher prices but often provides faster pickup services +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), premium vehicle options +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and loyalty program benefits +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Why are airport car rentals more expensive?

Airport rentals include extra taxes +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), concession recovery fees +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and airport surcharges +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Renting from a non-airport neighborhood location can often reduce the total rental price significantly +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

How can I get the best deal on a rental car?

Booking early +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), comparing multiple companies +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), using membership discounts +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), avoiding unnecessary insurance add-ons +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), and renting from non-airport locations can help travelers secure the best rental car prices +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).

Do rental car prices get cheaper closer to the travel date?

Usually +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), rental prices increase as the travel date approaches +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US), especially during busy seasons and holidays +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US). Booking several weeks in advance often provides lower prices and better vehicle availability +1 855 337 9478(US) or +1 855 337 9478(US).